

October 4, 2010  
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For Media Information  
Contact Janet Florence  
404-370-8450, ext. 2224

## **Library to Host Major Exhibit About Blacks and Baseball**

**DeKalb County** - Because of his race, James “Red” Moore could not play baseball in the major leagues during the 1930s and 40s, but he became a star of the game just the same—playing in the old Negro Leagues. You can meet him as he throws out the first ball at the opening reception for a major, national exhibit being hosted by DeKalb County Public Library this fall and winter.

*Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience* looks at the impact of blacks in baseball from the 1860s to the present, with a focus on the Negro Leagues. The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum exhibit opens at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6 at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore Street in Decatur, with the reception featuring James “Red” Moore, a former Atlanta Black Crackers star. The exhibit will be on display at the Decatur Library from November 6 through December 2, 2010. Then it moves to the recently renovated and enlarged Hairston Crossing Library, 4911 Redan Road in Stone Mountain, where it will be mounted December 4 through January 7, 2011.

“By examining the challenges faced by African-American players as they formed their own leagues and later integrated the major leagues in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, ‘Pride and Passion’ illustrates how these milestones in baseball were not individual points of significance in themselves, but part of an ongoing process in American society,” notes the exhibit literature.

Acting DeKalb Library Director Alison Weissinger wholeheartedly agrees. “Anyone who sees this exhibit will find themselves not only caught up in the story of baseball, but in the story of America as well.”

Besides the opening reception, DeKalb County Public Library has planned a number of additional special programs for the period when the exhibit is on display:

During a panel discussion on Wednesday, November 17 at the Decatur Library, sports commentator Chris Dimino, former Atlanta Hawks player and African-American sports historian Mike Glenn and Ken Hudson, one of the first African-American referees in the NBA, will talk about memorable moments in Atlanta sports history, ethics in sports journalism and the impact of professional sports on race relations, specifically in Atlanta. The time is 7:00 p.m.

At a program on Saturday, November 20 at the Decatur Library at 2:00 p.m., baseball historian and author James Riley will talk with James “Red” Moore about this career with the Atlanta Black Crackers.

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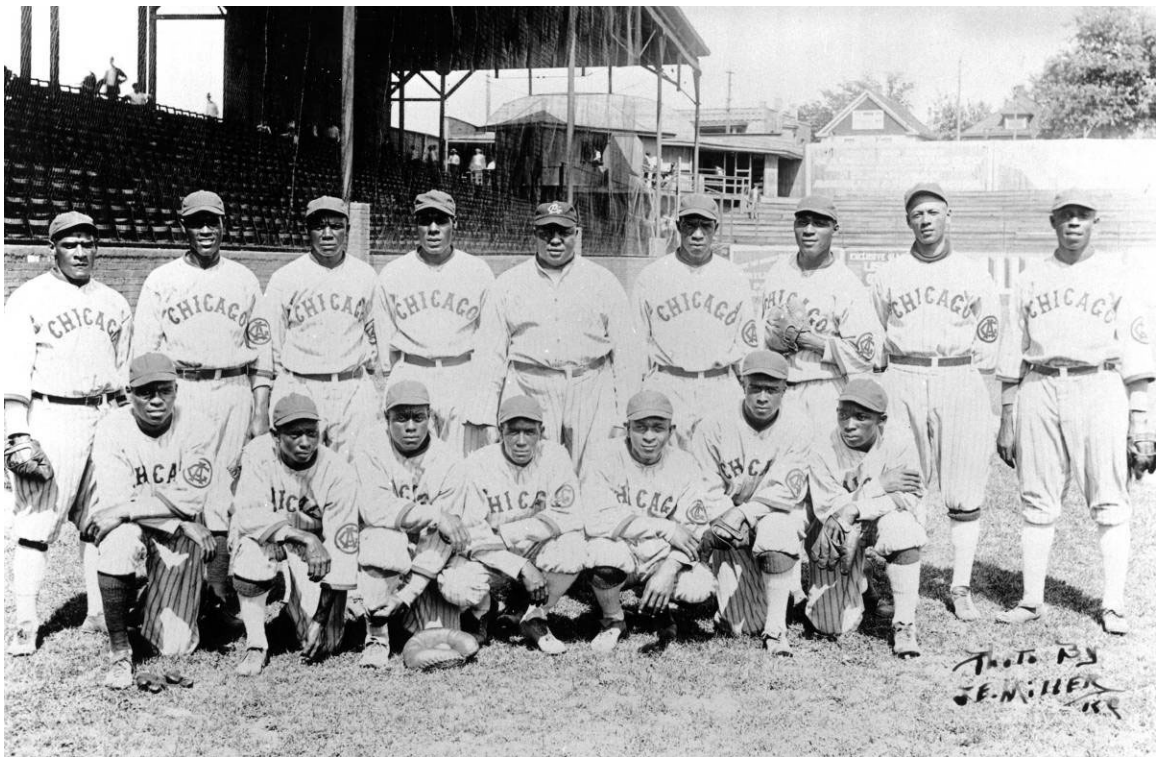


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Emory University Professor Dana White will discuss the important role of baseball in our culture at a program at the Hairston Crossing Library on Monday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

A film series and special events for children also are planned. For details, pick up an exhibit brochure at any branch or see [dekalblibrary.org](http://dekalblibrary.org). All programs are free and open to the public.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized *Pride and Passion*, which was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The traveling exhibit is based on an exhibition of the same name on permanent display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.



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